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Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

**Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations
Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and
Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

New Urban Agenda

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/71/L.23

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

I. Introduction

1. Draft resolution A/71/L.23, in which the General Assembly endorses the New Urban Agenda, responds to General Assembly resolution 67/216, in which the Assembly decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), as well as its resolutions 68/239, 69/226 and 70/210.

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of paragraphs 172 and 173 of the annex to draft resolution A/71/L.23, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly during its seventy-first session an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat. The result of the assessment will be a report containing recommendations to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat, and in this regard it should analyse:

(i) The normative and operational mandate of UN-Habitat;

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(ii) The governance structure of UN-Habitat for more effective, accountable and transparent decision-making, considering alternatives, including universalization of the membership of its Governing Council;

(iii) The work of UN-Habitat with national, subnational and local governments and with relevant stakeholders in order to tap the full potential of partnerships;

(iv) The financial capability of UN-Habitat;

(b) Decide to hold a two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly during the seventy-first session, to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in this regard. The meeting will discuss, *inter alia*, best practices, success stories and the measures contained in the report. A Chair's summary of the meeting will serve as an input to the Second Committee during seventy-second session for its consideration of the action to be taken in the light of the recommendations contained in the independent assessment, in its annual resolution under the relevant agenda item.

3. With regard to the resource implications of paragraphs 166 to 168 of the annex to draft resolution A/71/L.23, those would be elaborated upon in an oral statement of the Secretary-General to be issued, as appropriate, in respect of the relevant resolution of the Second Committee (A/C.2/71/L.59).

III. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

4. The requested activities relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; programme 12, Human settlements; and programme 25, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6/Rev.1). They also fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management (A/70/6 (Sect. 2) and Corr.1)); section 15, Human settlements (A/70/6 (Sect. 15)); and section 29D, Office of Central Support Services (A/70/6 (Sect. 29D)), of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

5. Pursuant to paragraph 172 of the annex to the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat. Accordingly, it is envisaged that the Secretary-General would appoint a high-level panel of experts to conduct the assessment.

6. The high-level panel would be composed of eight members with extensive knowledge of sustainable urban development, international development, and/or policymaking in an intergovernmental environment. The panel would be appointed by and would report to the Secretary-General. Panel members would be outside

independent experts who would serve on a pro bono basis, and would not be current or former United Nations staff members. Panel members would also be selected with due consideration to balanced geographical and gender representation.

7. The high-level panel would consist of the following four categories of members, with one expert each from a developed and a developing country:

(a) Two permanent representatives of missions to the United Nations in New York;

(b) Two former or currently serving urban development ministers, or ministers in a related field;

(c) Two former or currently serving mayors, representing local authorities' associations;

(d) Two academic or civil society leaders, representing stakeholders.

8. The Secretary-General would designate two co-chairs from among the panel members. The panel would be supported by two consultants who would record the panel's conclusions and recommendations and work with the high-level panel in drafting its final report, as well as facilitate its meetings and workshops. In addition, two support staff (General Service (Other level)) would provide administrative and logistical support.

9. In carrying out its mandate, the high-level panel is expected to hold consultations and workshops with the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Member States, key partners in multilateral international organizations, associations of local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders.

10. Accordingly, it is envisaged that the high-level panel would meet on three occasions (twice in New York and once in Nairobi), and conduct two workshops (one in Nairobi and one as part of a visit to a UN-Habitat field project (location to be determined)) in the first half of 2017. The workshops would serve as an opportunity for the panel to organize focus groups on areas of interest to the panel and would consist of 18 participants, including members of the high-level panel and experts in relevant fields. The meetings of the panel in New York and its workshop in the field would last for 3 days each, while the panel's meeting and workshop in Nairobi would last for 4 days each.

11. The high-level panel would submit its final report to the Secretary-General by the end of June 2017. In line with paragraph 173 of the annex to the draft resolution, the report will be an input to the two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly, convened by the President of the General Assembly in the seventy-first session, to consider the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in this regard. In addition, a Chair's summary of the meeting will serve as an input to the Second Committee during the seventy-second session for its consideration of the action to be taken in the light of the recommendations contained in the independent assessment, in its annual resolution under the relevant agenda item.

12. Pursuant to paragraph 173 of the annex to the draft resolution, the proposed two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly would use the meeting

entitlement of the General Assembly on the understanding that there will be no more than two meetings per day. Accordingly, there will be no additional meeting implications and the dates will need to be decided in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

13. Furthermore, the request for documentation contained in paragraphs 172 and 173 of the annex to the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one pre-session document (50,000 words) and one post-session document (8,500 words) in the six official languages in 2017.

V. Estimated resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017

A. Conference-servicing requirements

14. To implement the requests contained in paragraphs 172 and 173 of the annex to the draft resolution, there would be additional conference-servicing requirements of \$254,300 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The details of these additional non-recurrent requirements are provided in table 1.

Table 1

Additional conference-servicing requirements for the biennium 2016-2017

(United States dollars)

	2017	Total
Pre-session documentation	216 700	216 700
Post-session documentation	37 600	37 600
Total, section 2	254 300	254 300

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

15. Pursuant to paragraph 172 of the annex to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly an evidence-based and independent assessment of UN-Habitat. Accordingly, it is estimated that total additional non-conference-servicing requirements of \$516,200 would be necessary, comprising an estimated amount of \$500,300 under section 15, Human settlements, and \$15,900 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, as outlined below.

General temporary assistance

16. General temporary assistance resources in the estimated amount of \$81,000 would be required for two General Service (Other level) staff to be located in New York for 6 months from 1 January to 30 June 2017 to support the high-level panel by providing, inter alia, general administrative support and support for the organization of the travel arrangements, meetings and workshops of the high-level panel.

Consultant fees and travel

17. It is estimated that resources in the amount of \$141,500 would be required in order to pay for the services and travel of two consultants for 6 months each from 1 January to 30 June 2017 to assist the high-level panel in its work.

18. The consultants would oversee the compilation of evidence-based cases for the high-level panel, record the panel's conclusions and recommendations and work with the high-level panel to draft its final report. In addition, the consultants would be actively involved in the presentation and facilitation of the panel's meetings and workshops.

Ad hoc expert groups

19. In order to cover the airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses of the eight members of the high-level panel of experts for its meetings (two in New York and one in Nairobi), an estimated amount of \$92,200 would be required.

20. It is estimated that to cover airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses for the panel members and 10 other participants to its workshop in Nairobi, a total amount of \$70,200 would be required. To cover the same costs for the workshop as part the high-level panel's visit to a UN-Habitat field project, it is presently estimated that a total of \$78,000 would be required for all 18 participants.

Contractual services

21. An estimated amount of \$20,000 would be required to provide for the rental of venues for the high-level panel's meetings and workshops and for the printing of associated materials.

General operating expenses

22. Standard common services would be required over the duration of the assessment for the two General Service support staff supporting the high-level panel in New York. Accordingly, non-recurrent resources in the estimated amount of \$15,900 would be required to provide for the rental of premises for the two General Service support staff in New York for 6 months, over the course of the assessment. The resources would be budgeted under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for 2016-2017.

23. In addition, an estimated amount of \$14,300 would be required for communications and miscellaneous services for the two support staff over the course of the assessment. The total estimated requirement for general operating expenses would therefore be \$30,200.

Supplies and materials

24. An estimated amount of \$1,000 would be required to provide for general stationery and office supplies for the two General Service support staff over the course of the assessment.

Furniture and equipment

25. An estimated requirement of \$2,100 would be necessary to cover the acquisition of office automation equipment for the two General Service support staff over the course of the assessment.

26. Table 2 below summarizes the estimated resources required under section 15, Human settlements, and 29D, Office of Central Support Services, to implement the activities detailed in section IV above.

Table 2
Additional non-conference-servicing requirements for the biennium 2016-2017

(United States dollars)

	2017	Total
General temporary assistance (2 General Service (Other level) for 6 months)	81 000	81 000
Consultant fees and travel (2 consultants (Level C), for 6 months)	141 500	141 500
Travel of the high-level panel to meetings (2 in New York, 1 in Nairobi)	92 200	92 200
Field workshop: travel of 18 participants (high-level panel and stakeholders)	78 000	78 000
Nairobi workshop: travel of 18 participants (high-level panel and stakeholders)	70 200	70 200
Contractual services	20 000	20 000
General operating expenses	30 200	30 200
Supplies and materials	1 000	1 000
Furniture and equipment	2 100	2 100
Total	516 200	516 200

VI. Summary of resource implications

27. The additional requirements of the Secretary-General's proposal, amounting to \$770,500 for 2017, are detailed by section of the programme budget in table 3 below.

Table 3
Additional resource requirements, by section of the programme budget

(United States dollars)

	2017	Total
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	254 300	254 300
Section 15, Human settlements	500 300	500 300
Section 29D, Office of Central Support Services	15 900	15 900
Total	770 500	770 500

VII. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2016-2017

28. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities under sections 2, 15 and 29D of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium in order to meet the additional requirements of \$770,500. The adoption by the General Assembly of draft resolution A/71/L.23 would therefore entail additional requirements of \$770,500 under the programme budget for the biennium.

VIII. Contingency fund

29. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

IX. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

30. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/71/L.23, additional resource requirements in the amount of \$770,500, for 2017, would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, including \$254,300 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, \$500,300 under section 15, Human settlements, and \$15,900 under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services. The amount of \$770,500 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.